

BURKE-GILMAN TRAIL REDEVELOPMENT

State Environmental Policy Act Determination of Significance and Request for Comments on Scope of Environmental Impact Statement

King County's Department of Executive Services, Facilities Management Division, is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed **Burke Gilman Trail Redevelopment Plan**. As lead agency, the Department has determined that this proposal may have a significant adverse impact on the environment and that preparation of an EIS is therefore appropriate under the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA), RCW 43.21C.030(2)(c). Scoping is being conducted to identify and narrow the EIS to a discussion of significant environmental issues. This Scoping Notice, effective February 22, 2007, provides members of the public, agencies, organizations and tribes an opportunity to comment on the scope of the EIS.

Comment Deadline:

Please submit written comments by **Thursday, March 15, 2007**.

Lead Agency:

The King County Department of Executive Services, Facilities Management Division, is the lead agency responsible for the review of this proposal in accordance with the SEPA Rules, WAC 197-11-050.

Description of Proposal:

King County proposes to redevelop an approximately 2-mile section of the Burke-Gilman Trail along the northwestern shore of Lake Washington to improve safety and ease of use for trail users. The trail will be redeveloped within the existing right-of-way from NE 145th Street through Lake Forest Park to the western boundary of Log Boom Park in Kenmore. The trail is a non-motorized transportation corridor and multi-use recreational trail that is intended to safely accommodate a variety of user groups such as bicyclists, pedestrians, runners, wheelchair users (including those with motorized wheelchairs), in-line skaters, and different ages and skill levels within these groups.

The existing trail has an asphalt surface approximately 10-feet wide with about 2 feet of dirt shoulders and discontinuous grass and gravel shoulders on both sides of the trail. The proposed redevelopment project would widen the asphalt portion of the trail to a width of 12 feet and provide two gravel shoulders, one 1-foot wide on the west and north sides and the other 3-feet wide on the east and south sides. This project also includes the following activities:

- Replace pedestrian bridge over Lyon Creek and possibly replace pedestrian bridge over McAleer Creek.
- Replace existing retaining walls and construct retaining walls in new locations, as needed, to support cuts and fills associated with new trail configuration.
- Install new culverts and/or modify existing culverts that cross trail alignment.
- Redesign traffic controls and signage where trail intersects public and private roadways and driveways.
- Replace overgrown and/or unhealthy vegetation with new native, or near-native, planting. Provide restorative native plantings in wetland buffer areas.
- Replace existing deteriorated benches and trail furniture with new benches, trash receptacles, signing, racks and other elements. Replace, where necessary, existing fencing, generally in kind and in a way that protects privacy and preserves trail views/visibility.
- Remove obstacles at intersections to improve visibility/sight distance at crossings.

EIS and Alternatives Evaluation:

The EIS will evaluate the probable significant adverse impacts of the proposal and alternatives, consistent with the Washington State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA), RCW 43.21C.030(2)(c). Three alternatives will be evaluated: the proposed trail design, alternative alignments within the existing right-of-way corridor, and no action.

Potential Environmental Issues:

King County, through an extensive community outreach process and preliminary environmental evaluation, has identified the following areas of potentially significant environmental impacts associated with the proposed Burke Gilman Trail Redevelopment Plan: Earth, Water, Plants and Animals, Environmental Health, Land and Shoreline Use, Aesthetics/Light and Glare, Recreation, Cultural Resources, and Transportation (WAC 197-11-444). Additional areas of impact may be identified during scoping.

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How to Submit Comments: Members of the public, agencies, organizations, and tribes are invited to comment on the scope of the EIS for the proposed Burke Gilman Trail Redevelopment Plan. Please submit written comments by **Thursday, March 15, 2007**. King County is not planning to hold a public meeting to accept comments. You may submit written comments on alternatives, probable significant adverse environmental impacts, mitigation measures, licenses and other approvals that may be required to:

Gina Auld, Project Manager
King County Facilities Management Division
201 South Jackson Street, Mail Stop KSC-NR-0700
Seattle, WA 98104-3855

Comments may also be sent via e-mail to fmd.sepacomments@metrokc.gov. All comments received will be considered by the King County Department of Executive Services, Facilities Management Division in determining the scope of analysis in the EIS. If you have any questions about this proposal or about the EIS, please contact **Gina Auld** at **(206) 263-7281**. In addition, general project information and project documents are available on the project Website at www.metrokc.gov/facilities/burkegilmantrail

Date: _____ **SEPA Responsible Official:** _____
Kathy Brown, Director, Facilities Management Division
King County Department of Executive Services